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CIA

APPROVED BY WHITE HOUSE  
3/29/60

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

**Memorandum of Conversation**

LIMIT DISTRIBUTION

DATE: March 23, 1960

White House  
11:30 a.m.

SUBJECT: Letter to the President from  
General Franco

U.S.

Spanish

PARTICIPANTS: The President Foreign Minister Fernando Maria  
The Secretary of State Castiella  
Ambassador John Davis Lodge Ambassador Jose Maria de Areilza  
Mr. Ivan B. White, EUR

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After an exchange of pleasantries, the Spanish Foreign Minister referred to the outstanding success of the President's recent visit to Spain and the fact that the Spanish people were still talking about the good results of the visit. In reply, the President said that he was greatly impressed with the modern appearance of Madrid and with the number of large buildings.

Mr. Castiella then said that Generalissimo Franco had entrusted him with a personal message to the President. The President scanned the letter and said that while he had only had an opportunity to read it hastily, he agreed with General Franco in the latter's analysis of Communist objectives. He particularly agreed with the comment made that for the underdeveloped nations of America "the key to success lies in what they themselves will do".

Mr. Castiella said that the Spanish Government had the impression that the Communists were using Spanish Communists to incite the peoples of Latin America. The President remarked that he had discussed Communist activities with all of the Presidents of the countries in Latin America visited by him and that they were all aware of the problem in one degree

State Dept. review completed

or another.

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or another. Some appeared, however, to be complacent or disposed to sweep the problem under the rug. The President continued that the Communists have penetrated some student bodies in Latin American countries. He added parenthetically that we have to a degree a similar problem in the United States, remarking that at a recent student military conference the Air Force participant had unconsciously used the Communist line. This was that American businessmen were interested only in obtaining profits from their operations in Latin America. This, of course, challenged the very basis of our free enterprise philosophy. Happily, there is little of this agitation in the United States.

The President had received a letter from a student in a Latin American country who claimed to represent 25,000 students. He had learned that this student had been assisted in writing this letter by an agitator and the President, with the assistance of the State Department, was preparing a comprehensive rebuttal. During his trip to Latin America the President had noticed little evidence of Communist agitation excepting among student groups. He had noticed one sign which read "We like Ike but we like Castro too". After referring to the tear gas episode in Montevideo, the President said that he personally had not seen a single case of animosity during his entire trip. Mrs. Castiella said that all of the reports which his Government had received had indicated that the trip was a great success; that the Latin American peoples had been greatly impressed by the fact that the President had taken the time and trouble to go to their countries to discuss with them their problems.

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DEPARTMENT OF STATE

Memorandum of Conversation

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DATE: March 23, 1960

SUBJECT: Situation of Spanish Protestants

White House  
 11:30 a.m.

U.S.

Spanish

PARTICIPANTS: The President  
 The Secretary of State  
 Ambassador John Davis Lodge  
 Mr. Ivan B. White, EUR

Foreign Minister Fernando Maria  
 Castiella  
 Ambassador Jose Maria de  
 Areilza

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During his call on the President at the White House, the Spanish Foreign Minister gave a report on the question of the treatment of Protestants in Spain, a subject which had been raised by the President with General Franco during the President's visit to Madrid. He reported that he could assure the President that in a very short time this matter would be settled to his satisfaction. General Franco had decided it would be done and this was Government policy. It was, of course, a delicate problem. It was necessary to consult the hierarchy. The President commented that General Franco had told him that 98 percent of his people were Catholic and he could readily see that it was a delicate problem.

Mr. Castiella said that he would be giving Ambassador Lodge a short memorandum explaining how the Protestant problem would be resolved. The President's initiative in this matter had been most helpful. Furthermore, he, the Spanish Foreign Minister, had previously discussed this matter with Foreign Minister Selwyn Lloyd in London. Mr. Castiella was acutely aware of the complexity of this problem because he had negotiated the Concordat between the Vatican and Spain, in negotiations which had taken one and a half years. He hastened to assure the President that this present project would not take this long.

The President

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The President emphasized that the successful resolution of the problem of the treatment of the Protestants in Spain would have a large and favorable impact in the United States. The first amendment of the United States Constitution made provision for freedom of worship. With Catholics in the United States in the minority, they were the ones concerned here about the protection of minority rights and a favorable Spanish solution would be tremendously popular in the United States.

In closing the conversation, the President asked the Spanish Foreign Minister to convey to Generalissimo Franco how very pleased he was with the news that a solution would soon be found to the Protestant problem in Spain.

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Executive Registry  
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March 30, 1960

DDP 0-1853

MEMORANDUM

FOR: The Honorable  
Allen Dulles  
Director  
Central Intelligence Agency

FROM: John A. Calhoun  
Director  
Executive Secretariat

The following documents are enclosed for  
your personal information:

Memoranda of Conversation between the  
President and Spanish Foreign Minister  
Castiella

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DEPARTMENT OF STATE  
WASHINGTON

March 30, 1960

*Spain*  
Executive Registry

60-2349

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MEMORANDUM

FOR: The Honorable  
Allen Dulles  
Director  
Central Intelligence Agency

FROM: John A. Calhoun  
Director  
Executive Secretariat

The following documents are enclosed for  
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CONFIDENTIAL Enclosures

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Remarks:

2 - I believe DD/P would be interested in reading copies of the attached memoranda of conversation.

JSE

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